

The Town of Newfields Conservation Commission  
Public Meeting Minutes  
Monday February 28, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Commission members present were: David Mason, Bobbie Byrne, Alison Watts, Ray LaBranche, Lindsay Carroll, Carolyn Scanlon, Selectman's Rep. James McIlroy  
Guests: Steve Shope, and Ray Konisky.

Treasurer's report was submitted by David Mason. Ray LaBranche motioned to accept, Seconded by Bobbie Byrne, all in favor YES. See attached.

Minutes of January 17, 2005 were read. David motioned to accept minutes as read. The motion to accept was seconded by Lindsay Carroll, all in favor YES.

**Old Business:**

Scanlon Property- DES report: David Mason read a letter sent to the NCC by David Price, Compliant Investigator DES Wetlands- Coastal Region on 1/31/05. This was a follow up to the inspection on 11/30/04, stating there appeared to be no wetland violations at the time of the inspection and that the owner had all of the required approvals from the DES Wetland Bureau.

**New Business:**

Alison Watts reported on consulting firms for a Prime Wetlands study. Newmarket and Exeter have completed Prime Wetlands studies.

Alison reported she had spoken to and had gotten quotes from Mark West, Normandeau Associates and NH Soil Consultants. In his proposal, Mark West stated that the town of Newfields has to decide which wetlands they wish control over. There are NH Estuaries Project Grants, up to \$10,000.00, to apply for before spring. Alison will make copies for the members of the NCC to view before going forward with which consulting firm to go with for phase one of the study.

David reported that the Public Hearing on the Millwoods/Falzone subdivision went well on 1/19/05.

David reported that there were 79 voters at the Town deliberative session. A straw poll was taken and 90% were in favor of the purchase of the Millwood/ Falzone property.

David said the Celebration Committee needs help for the Memorial Day Parade. The next meeting for the Celebration Committee will be 3/28/05@ 7:00 pm. Alison Watts said she will contact the Open Space Committee to see if they will do a booth together with the NCC the day of the parade.

David relayed information on an upcoming workshop:  
“Inventory and Monitoring Wildlife on Your Land” 2/26/05 and on 4/9/05

Bluepoint Ecological Consulting firm was discussed.

David indicated that, according to The NH Coastal Program, the Coastal Zone boundary has been significantly expanded to include towns in ME & NH.

David will submit the necessary documentation to the Town of Newfields, as NCC treasurer, for the town audit.

Changes in NCC positions:

Chair- Alison Watts will be the new Chair.

Vice Chair- David Mason.

Treasurer- David Mason will remain in this position.

Secretary- Lauren Hill was nominated for the position of Secretary and the NCC members await her answer.

As motioned by Bobbie Byrne, seconded by Lindsay Carroll, all in favor YES.

NCC Secretary Carolyn Scanlon will not reapply for her membership as of 3/05

The Newfields Conservation Commission wishes to take this time to thank Carolyn for all of her hard work and years of service to the NCC. Carolyn was one of the original members of the NCC and worked in many positions within the commission wherever there was a need. She will be missed.

Patrick Seekamp submitted his bill for Millwood/Falzone property work. David Mason motioned to recommend that the Selectmen pay the bill. Lindsay Carroll seconded the motion and all in favor YES. David Mason will ask Patrick Seekamp for the paper work done for NCC.

David Mason spoke about the River Run/Davey property. The wetlands impact encompasses 153,000 sq. ft. (approx 3 .5 acres) for a 15 lot subdivision. NCC discussed the cluster housing and wetland impact. Alison will follow up with DES.

David Mason discussed the interest rates on our MBIA accounts. Is a change warranted? After NCC discussion, the decision was made to have David talk to Don Doane and look into a possible change to a different institution.

Bobbie Byrne discussed her recent conservation easement with the NCC. She is seeking help from the commission in clarifying her role in the donation of her land. This is so she can claim the tax credit for her donation to the Rockingham Land Trust.

Applications for NCC membership: Steve Shope and Ray Konisky have applied. There is one opening on the commission (Carolyn Scanlon is stepping down). After writing to the Selectmen for the position, they both spoke tonight.

Lindsay Carroll, whose position is also up this year, has written to the Selectmen about his desire to remain on the commission.

-3- Minutes 2/28/05

Bobbie Byrne spoke about there being no room for organizing the materials belonging to the NCC. It is her hope that there may be room for the NCC should the town vote to acquire the Post Office building at the March vote.

David motioned to have Ray LaBranche speak to the Librarian about helping the NCC. Seconded by Lindsay Carroll. All in favor YES.

Annual NCC report to the Town is on pg. 104 of the Annual Town Report

Next meeting will be on 3/21/05 at the Town Hall 7:00 pm

David motioned to adjourn at 9:18 pm. Seconded Lindsay Carroll, all in favor YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Scanlon, Secretary